

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 EA-11 NIC-01 EB-11 OMB-01

DRC-01 /171 W

----- 100855

R 110800Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7354

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, HU

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV VISIT TO HUNGARY

REF: A. SOFIA 1518: B. BUDAPEST 3871

1. EXCEPT FOR USING OCCASION TO ENDORSE PUBLICLY CONCEPT OF MEETING OF COMMUNIST PARTIES, ZHIVKOV VISIT TO HUNGARY APPEARS TO US TO HAVE FOLLOWED SAME SCENARIO DEVELOPED IN HIS RECENT VISITS ELSEWHERE IN BLOC.

2. COMMUNIQUE IS NOT TERRIBLY NOTEWORTHY AND CONTAINS STANDARD LIST ON WHICH BOTH PARTIES AGREE, I.E. MIDDLE EAST, SE ASIA, EUROPEAN SECURITY, ETC. ONE INTERESTING NOTE, HOWEVER, WAS REFERENCE TO MOSCOW CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES IN 1969 AS ONE OF BASIC

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MILESTONES THAT GUIDE BOTH PARTIES. TO BEST OF OUR

KNOWLEDGE, ZHIVKOV, AT LEAST, DOES NOT NORMALLY INCLUDE THIS MEETING IN STANDARD LITANY AND ITS USE MAY INDICATE THAT HE AT LEAST, HOPES FOR A CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTIES LARGER THAN EUROPEAN SCALE. AS IN POLAND, ZHIVKOV TONED DOWN PRAISE FOR USSR SOMEWHAT, BUT THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED OUTSIDE HIS HOME TERRITORY WHERE OTHERS DO IT FOR HIM.

3. COMMENT: VISIT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE INCLUDED THREE ISSUES OF CURRENT INTEREST TO BULGARS: "SOCIALIST UNITY" AND THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED THEREFROM, BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITHIN THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF CEMA INTEGRATION, AND NEED TO PRESENT UNITED FRONT AGAINST PRC. A HUNGARIAN SOURCE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO SOFIA SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON ALL ISSUES EXCEPT BILATERAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS ON WHICH "MANY DIFFERENCES" REMAIN TO BE SOLVED. HE POINTED TO LANGUAGE IN COMMUNIQUE WHICH NOTED THAT "ADDITIONAL EFFORTS" MUST BE MADE TO COORDINATE PLANS IN METALLURGY, MACHINE BUILDING, CHEMICALS AND ELECTRONICS AS EVIDENCE THAT DIFFERENCES HAD NOT BEEN OVERCOME. PROBLEMS, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ARISE OUT OF BULGARIA'S INABILITY TO PAY FOR HUNGARIAN EXPORTS. NONETHELESS, HE CHARACTERIZED ATMOSPHERE OF VISIT AS "GENERALLY GOOD". FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH PRESS AND MEDIA ATTENTION TO VISIT WAS CONSIDERABLY BELOW THAT DEVOTED TO POLISH TRIP, BUT MORE THAN FOR ZHIVKOV'S TWO DAY VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
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